

REMARKS

Claim 9, that was withdrawn previously, has been cancelled. Thus claims 1-8 and 10-16 remain pending and stand rejected in the subject patent application.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings were objected to on the contention that “it is not readily apparent how Figures 4-6 are incorporated into/with Figures 1,2, and or 7-9.”

That objection is unfounded. The description of Figure 2 in paragraph 0021 of the specification identifies a first portion 28 of the material for the initiator 26, which is shown in the upper portion of the left half of that figure. Paragraph 0024 describes how that first portion 28 is activated by an electric control circuit 40 in that illustrated version of the apparatus. The first sentence of paragraph 0028 states that Figures 4-6 show various alternative means for activating the initiator 26. Each of Figures 4-6 clearly shows the first portion 28 of the initiator material, which portion is identified with the same reference numeral as in the illustration of the entire gas generator 12 in Figure 2. Paragraphs 0028-0030 then describe how these alternative means activate the initiator 26 and how that activation ignites the second portion 30 of the initiator material shown in Figure 2.

Thus illustration of the common first portion 28 of the initiator 26 in Figures 2 and 4-6, along with the description in the specification of how the alternative means for activating the initiator 26 interact with the other components in Figure 2, make it clearly apparent how Figures 4-6 are incorporated into and function with the entire gas generator 12 in Figure 2.

Therefore, applicant requests withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1-8 and 10-16 were rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 in that claim 1 is indefinite as to whether the claimed subject matter constitutes the apparatus alone or in combination with the door and the vehicle.

In response, claim 1 has been amended to (1) move the recitation that the door has first and second positions into the preamble, (2) state that the fluid cylinder and piston are adapted to be operatively connected to the door and the vehicle, and (3) divide the descriptions of the claimed elements into different paragraphs. Revised claim 1 makes it clear that the apparatus alone is the subject matter of the invention and that the door and the vehicle are workpieces operated by the apparatus.

It is submitted that claims 1-8 and 10-16 now comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112.

Conclusion

For these reasons, reconsideration and allowance of the present application are requested.

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